

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460



OFFICE OF  
AIR AND RADIATION

DATE: November 13, 2002  
TO: ENERGY STAR<sup>®</sup> Furnace Partners  
FROM: Rachel Schmeltz, ENERGY STAR Product Manager  
RE: Furnace Revision Status and ENERGY STAR Partnership Agreement

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### **Status of Furnace Specification Revision**

Over the last few months, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conducted market research and solicited feedback from manufacturers and other industry players with the goal of revising the ENERGY STAR specification for furnaces. In particular, EPA was interested in the possibility of including a fan motor efficiency requirement in the specification. However, EPA was unable to determine an appropriate specification that fully addressed furnace fan efficiencies. We are also aware of and continue to follow the ongoing dialogue between members of the Gas Appliance Manufacturers Association (GAMA) and the energy-efficiency community regarding furnace fan motor efficiencies. Once the issues surrounding the efficiency of fan motors are resolved, EPA will revisit the ENERGY STAR specification for furnaces in consultation with industry to determine whether a fan motor efficiency requirement should be included and what that requirement should be.

### **ENERGY STAR Partnership Agreement**

In January 2001, EPA sent correspondence regarding the new ENERGY STAR Partnership Agreement to all heating and cooling equipment partners, including furnace manufacturers. The Partnership Agreement replaces the previous Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and serves to streamline the partnership process by reducing paperwork and standardizing the commitments throughout the program, where appropriate. As ENERGY STAR specifications are revised or updated, EPA is introducing the Partnership Agreement to those affected partners. Several of you have already been introduced to the new agreement when you received information on the revised ENERGY STAR specification for central air conditioners (CAC) and air source heat pumps.

Since EPA will not be revising the furnace specification at this time, manufacturers wishing to continue their participation in ENERGY STAR must sign a Partnership Agreement and submit a Commitment Form for furnaces by **December 13, 2002**. Included with this correspondence is the appropriate paperwork needed to continue your ENERGY STAR partnership. The Partnership Agreement need only be signed once, so if your company has already signed under CAC and air source heat pumps, you need only submit an updated Commitment Form for furnaces.

The following list represents the main partner commitments contained in the Partnership Agreement:

- Provide to EPA, on an annual basis, an updated list of ENERGY STAR qualifying furnace models.
- Clear display and consistent labeling of the ENERGY STAR label in product literature and on your Web site. It is also recommended that the ENERGY STAR label is clearly displayed on the top/front of the product itself and on the product packaging.
- Provide to EPA, on an annual basis, unit shipment data of those furnace models that qualify as ENERGY STAR (data can be masked by EPA so as to protect the confidentiality of the partner). Partners may work through a third party, such as GAMA to aggregate this data. (EPA has already initiated discussion with Mark Kendall, Director of Engineering and Technical Services at GAMA, to determine the best and most efficient way to fulfill this partnership requirement for GAMA members.)
- Comply with current ENERGY STAR Logo Use Guidelines (located on the ENERGY STAR Web site at [www.energystar.gov/library](http://www.energystar.gov/library)).
- Notify EPA of a change in the designated responsible party or contacts for furnaces within 30 days.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the new Partnership Agreement, please contact Nii Addy, ICF Consulting, at [naddy@icfconsulting.com](mailto:naddy@icfconsulting.com) or (202) 862-2692. We appreciate your cooperation during the specification review process as well as your continued support of ENERGY STAR. If you have any questions about ENERGY STAR for furnaces, please feel free to contact me at [schmeltz.rachel@epa.gov](mailto:schmeltz.rachel@epa.gov) or (202) 564-9124.